

Petroleum and Progress in Iran

From the 1940s to 1960s, Iran developed into the world's first "petro-state," where oil represented the bulk of state revenue and supported an industrializing economy, expanding middle class, and powerful administrative and military apparatus. Drawing on both American and Iranian sources, Gregory Brew explores how the Pahlavi petro-state emerged from a confluence of forces – some global, some local. He shows how the shah's particular form of oil-based authoritarianism evolved from interactions with American developmentalists, Pahlavi technocrats, and major oil companies, all against the looming backdrop of the United States' Cold War policy and the coup d'état of August 1953. By placing oil at the center of the Cold War narrative, Brew contextualizes Iran's slide into petrolic authoritarianism within its relationship to international oil, the global development movement, and the United States. Synthesizing a wide range of sources and research methods, this book demonstrates that the Pahlavi petro-state was not born but made, and not solely by the Pahlavi shah.

Gregory Brew is a Kissinger Visiting Fellow at the Jackson School of Global Affairs at Yale University. He is a historian of modern Iran, the Cold War, and international oil. He has written extensively on contemporary issues of energy and geopolitics, and his work has appeared in *Iranian Studies*, the *International History Review*, and the *Texas National Security Review*.

Petroleum and Progress in Iran

Oil, Development, and the Cold War

Gregory Brew

Yale University



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To Megan and Margot

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Note on Transliteration

Persian names are transliterated into English according to the system used by the Library of Congress. For ease of reading, diacritical marks have been removed and spellings rendered in the form most frequently used in English-language publications: “Khudādād Farmāfarmā’iyān” becomes “Khodadad Farmanfarmaian,” for example.

Abbreviations

AIOC/	Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
APOC	Anglo-Persian Oil Company
BP	British Petroleum (BP Archives) Coventry, UK
DDEPL	Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library
DELP	David E. Lilienthal Papers
DRCR	Development and Resources Corporation Records
FDRPL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Poughkeepsie, New York
FIS	Foundation for Iranian Studies
FISDS	Foundation for Iranian Studies, Development Series
FO	Records of the Foreign Office
FPSC	Foreign Petroleum Supply Committee
FRUS	Foreign Relations of the United States
HAG	Harvard Advisory Group
HIOHP	Harvard Iranian Oral History Project
HSTPL	Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Independence, Missouri
JFKPL	John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, Massachusetts
KDS	Khuzestan Development Service
LBJPL	Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas
MKI	Morrison & Knudsen Inc.
NIOC	National Iranian Oil Company
OCI	Overseas Consultants Inc.
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAD	Petroleum Administration for Defense
RAC	Rockefeller Archive Center, Tarrytown, New York
RG	Record Group (National Archives and Records Administration)

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RUSFAA	Records of US Foreign Assistance Agencies
SGMML	Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University
UKNA	United Kingdom National Archives, Kew Gardens, London, UK
USLETCGR	US Legation and Embassy, Tehran, Classified General Records
USNA	US National Archives, College Park, Maryland
WBGA	World Bank Group Archives